God, Market, and Intelligence

Dr Anshuman Telang

Dedication

To all those…

who are not afraid to ask questions,
who place reason above faith,
who seek answers not from God but from themselves,
who keep the light of their intellect burning even in the glitter of the market.

This book is for them—

Who want to think, understand, and see the truth as it is, not as it is shown.

Book Title: God, Market and Intelligence

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Preface

"It takes courage to accept the truth, and a strong system to live in illusion!"

This book is an attempt to touch that truth which we often avoid—God, Market, and Intelligence.

Our world stands on three pillars—

1. God – We are told from childhood that He is the foundation of our life.

2. Market – Which controls our thoughts, desires, and decisions.

3. Intelligence – Which can free us from both if we learn to use it correctly.

Why this book?

The purpose of this book is not just to challenge beliefs but to bring forth the questions that are often suppressed.

Did we create God, or did He create us? Does the market fulfil our needs, or does it entangle us in new ones? Is man truly intelligent, or just a slave to his illusions?

God, Market, and Intelligence—not only shape our personal lives but also drive entire civilizations.
If we understand their true nature, we can view life from a new perspective.

A question for you…
If you were given the freedom to abandon one forever—God, Market, or Intelligence—which one would you choose?

Are you ready to challenge your beliefs?
If yes, then this book is for you.
If not, then this book is even more for you.

— Anshuman Telang

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Chapter 1: Faith vs. Reason

"You believe, therefore, I am God!"

There are two kinds of people in this world—those who believe in an almighty power (God) that governs the universe, and those who believe that the world operates on its own laws, without divine intervention. Interestingly, the first group has no scientific evidence yet remains firm, while the second group questions everything but often loses debates—because faith runs faster than logic.

The Birth of Faith

If God truly exists, who saw Him first? And if He doesn't, how did the idea arise?

The answer is simple. In ancient times, humans lacked science, technology, and an understanding of natural phenomena. When lightning struck, they feared; when floods came, they prayed; and when something good happened, they looked up and gave thanks. Every unknown was linked to a divine force.

Over time, this belief solidified and was institutionalized into religion. When a story is repeated for thousands of years, it starts feeling like the truth. Religion did just that—told the same story repeatedly until it became accepted as fact.

The Struggle of Rationality

When the first person dared to question this system, he was first insulted, then ostracized, and sometimes even killed. Socrates was poisoned, Galileo was imprisoned, and Bruno was burned alive—just because they saw a truth that society wasn't ready to accept.

Why does religious faith fear logic? Because reason shakes the foundations of any belief.

If you question God, you are told, "This is a matter of faith, don’t use logic."
But if something cannot be understood through reason, is it really worth understanding?

Why Fear Reason?

If we are to believe something only on faith, then we must believe everything—UFOs, ghost stories, and self-proclaimed godmen’s miracles. But the problem is that people selectively preserve their beliefs—they use science for phones and the internet but discard scientific thinking when it comes to religion.

Isn’t it strange that a doctor, who studies science to treat patients, also visits a temple to pray for success? If everything is in God’s hands, why study medical science? And if medical science is correct, what’s the need for God?

The Rock of Faith and the Waves of Reason

Faith is like a solid rock, and reason is like waves that crash against it repeatedly but cannot completely erode it. This is because faith becomes a psychological safety net.

It is easier to believe that someone above is watching over us than to accept that we are alone in this universe—free, independent, and the creators of our own fate.

However, the truth is that the more these waves crash, the weaker the rock becomes. Maybe not today, maybe not for a few centuries, but eventually, reason will triumph—because history shows that truth, no matter how delayed, is always accepted.

(Next chapter: "Religion: Fear or Convenience?" - Why was religion created, and what was its true purpose?)

Chapter 2: Religion – Fear or Convenience?

"If you don’t fear, how will you believe?"

Imagine a child alone in a house. The electricity goes out, and darkness engulfs everything. He starts seeing strange things in every corner—mistaking shadows for ghosts and faint noises for eerie whispers. In reality, nothing is there, but fear forces him to perceive things that don’t exist.

Now, think of the same child growing up, but the fear remains. Earlier, he was afraid of the dark; now, he fears life's uncertainties—death, disease, failure, poverty. And right in the middle of this fear, religion steps in and says, "Don't be afraid; God is here! Surrender to me, and I will protect you."

The Real Foundation of Religion: Fear

If God were all-powerful and loved everyone equally, would there be any need to fear? Then why does every religion say that those who believe in God will go to heaven while those who don’t will rot in hell? What kind of love is built on fear?

The truth is, religion was created as a tool to control fear. To keep society disciplined, a story was crafted—"If you do wrong, God will be angry." And this idea was embedded so deeply into our minds that we started accepting it without question.

The Alliance of Fear and Convenience

But over time, religion didn't just exploit fear; it also started offering convenience. Humans crave easy answers. They don’t want to think deeply about how the universe originated, what happens after death, or what the meaning of life is. Religion says, "Don't think too much, I’ll give you ready-made answers. Just have faith."

This is why, in times of crisis, people turn to religion more than reason.

Sick? Go to the doctor, but don’t forget to visit the temple.

Business in loss? Work harder, but also perform a ritual.

Want to pass an exam? Study well, but also make an offering.

Religion provides the comfort of shifting half the responsibility onto God, so that if we fail, we don’t feel guilty. It consoles us—"I did everything, but maybe it wasn’t God’s will."

Is Morality Possible Without Religion?

Another argument often made is—"Without religion, people will become immoral. They will steal, kill, and society will collapse."

But does morality come only from religion? Can an atheist not be moral? Some of the least religious countries in the world (like Norway, Denmark, and Sweden) have the lowest crime rates, while some of the most religious countries are drowning in poverty, corruption, and crime.

The truth is, morality doesn’t stem from religion but from reason and the instinct to coexist. If I see someone fall on the street, I don’t need a religious text to tell me to help them. I will do it because it’s human nature.

Religion: A Tool of Control

Religion’s greatest power is not that it is true, but that it is an extremely useful tool for power and politics. Throughout history, every great empire has used religion—because it makes it easier to control people.

If a king claims to be God’s representative, the people won’t revolt. If the poor are convinced that their poverty will be rewarded in the next life, they will pray instead of protesting. That’s why religious institutions have always been closely tied to power.

True Liberation is Freedom from Fear

If religion were only about teaching morality, it might have been useful.

But it has become a web of fear and control, where questioning is a crime, reasoning is a sin, and faith is the ultimate truth.

True freedom will come only when we break free from this fear—when we take charge of our own lives without relying on an imaginary God.

When we do good, not for a place in heaven, but because it makes sense.

(Coming up next: "The Marketplace of Faith" – How belief turned into a business?)

Chapter 3: Market and Devotion

"Not Devotees, but Customers!"

In any market, a customer looks for two things—first, a solution to their problem, and second, an experience that soothes their heart. Religion has combined both to create the perfect business model—first, make you feel guilty and helpless, then promise you relief.

"Committed a sin? Donate, and you will earn virtue!"

"Want your wishes fulfilled? Offer money at this temple!"

"Want to escape suffering? Take blessings from this guru!"

In short, faith is no longer a spiritual experience but a marketing scheme—"Invest and get returns!"

Religion’s Branding Management

If you observe carefully, every major religion follows a branding strategy.

Each deity has a unique USP (Unique Selling Proposition):

Hanuman grants strength,

Lakshmi bestows wealth,

Ganesha brings good fortune,

Shani instils fear.

Temples, mosques, and churches operate on a franchise model—the bigger the brand, the larger the crowd of followers.

Exclusive schemes like "VIP Darshan" are introduced, where common devotees wait in line for five hours, but a rich person can pay ₹5000 and get direct access to the deity.

Notice that the importance is not on God but on the ‘darshan’ (sight of God). Meaning, the darshan itself has become the product.

A good business model creates artificial demand and then compels people to pay for its fulfilment.

The Journey from Devotee to Customer

Earlier, devotion was about simplicity and renunciation. People meditated in forests, seeking inner peace. But over time, it turned into an industry.

Temples were once small, now they are managed like multinational corporations.

Earlier, flowers and water were offered to God, now donations worth crores are collected.

Sermons were once meant for wisdom, now they are grand shows with massive stages, LED screens, and online subscription models.

It all follows the laws of demand and supply. If there is fear and hope in people, someone will find a way to sell them a solution.

Godmen and the Startup Culture of Religion

In today’s world, many self-proclaimed saints and religious leaders have made this industry even more professional. They don’t think like monks; they think like CEOs.

They have:

Marketing teams to promote their sermons online.

Product lines—yoga, meditation, herbs, ashes, amulets, books.

Financial managers to properly invest the donations they receive.

Media partnerships to ensure their follower count keeps growing.

Now, ask yourself—Is this truly spirituality or just a religious corporate business?

Religious Tourism: Temples as a Product

Religion is no longer limited to faith; it has become a major part of the tourism industry.

Char Dham Yatra, Kumbh Mela, Mecca-Medina, Vatican—all these religious sites are now tourist hubs.

Hotels, restaurants, and shops flourish around temples and pilgrimage sites.

Every religious journey is connected to an entire economic chain—buses, trains, tour guides, donation boxes, hotels, and ‘prasad’ (offerings) sales.

People don’t go there for self-realization anymore; they go to check items off their bucket list—"We visited that shrine, now let's book the next tour!"

Has God Become a Brand Too?

If all of this is running like a business, what does it mean?

1. If you pray in a small temple, nothing may happen, but if you have VIP access in a grand temple, God will listen faster!

2. If your guru is poor, he may not be wise, but if he rides luxury cars, he must be a divine soul!

3. If a baba (spiritual leader) amasses billions in wealth, it's his "spiritual influence," but if a scientist earns from research, he is "materialistic!"

In short, God is now a brand, whose value is determined by marketing and demand.

The Alliance of Devotion and Market

The real question is not whether God exists. The question is—What has religion become?

Is it truly a path to spiritual enlightenment, or just another way to make money?

Does it really lead to salvation, or is it just another business opportunity?

If God is almighty, why does He need your money?

If devotion should be selfless, why is VIP access to temples sold?

If spirituality means simplicity, why are saints becoming billionaires?

(In the next chapter: "Is Wealth the True God?" – The real game of capitalism, materialism, and morality!)

Chapter 4: Is Money the True God?

"Whoever has money, has God!"

It has always been said, “Wealth is just dirt on the hands.” But interestingly, the ones preaching this never seem to have empty hands themselves. No matter how much people talk about morality and spirituality, at the core of it, everything revolves around money.

If you observe closely, religion and capitalism have a lot in common. Both have a single goal—giving you hope and keeping you as a consumer.

Religion says: "If you suffer in this life, you will be rewarded in the next!"

Capitalism says: "If you work hard now, you will become rich in the future!"

Both want you trapped in their system, never questioning it.

The Alliance of Wealth, Religion, and Power

History has always proven that those who control wealth also control God.

Kings promoted religious leaders to keep the masses under control.

Temples and churches collected vast amounts of wealth through donations.

Religion imposed taxes, which were later rebranded as “charity” or “offerings.”

Even today, this cycle continues. Major religious institutions operate in billions, yet they are exempt from taxes because they are engaged in “spiritual work.”

People are told that money doesn’t buy happiness, but every religious institution and spiritual leader is accumulating unimaginable wealth.

Devotion is for the Poor, Business is for the Rich

Have you ever seen a millionaire guru visit a poor man’s house to preach for free?

Or a big temple offering VIP darshan to the underprivileged for free?

No.

Because the real business of religion runs on the faith of the poor.

The poor are told to donate so they may be rich in their next life.

The rich are told to donate so they may remain protected in this life.

And in between, those managing this system amass wealth and become gods themselves.

Worship of Money is the Real Worship

If you look carefully, who is the real God today? Money.

Those who have money, have all the comforts.

Those who have money, don’t have to wait in temple lines.

Those who have money, are respected in society.

In reality, true devotion is not found in temples but in bank accounts.

The real miracle doesn’t exist in idols; it exists in your wallet.

Can Morality and Money Coexist?

A critical question arises—Is being rich immoral? Is making money wrong?

Absolutely not!
The problem is not in earning money but in earning it through deception.

If you make money through hard work and intelligence, it is justified.

If you make money by manipulating people’s emotions and fears, it is unethical.

If you generate wealth through science and innovation, you shape the future.

If you accumulate wealth by selling superstition, you deceive people.

Religion and Market: A Corporate Model

Religion today operates like a corporate business:

Devotee = Customer

Temple = shopping mall

Rituals = Products

Donations = Transactions

Guru = Salesman

You are told that in God's court, everyone is equal—
But VIP darshan is only for the rich.

You are told that greed is bad—
Yet every spiritual leader collects millions in donations.

You are told that money is not important, devotion is—
Yet the wealth of temples, churches, and mosques keeps growing exponentially.

Is Wealth the True Path to Liberation?

If money is so powerful, then what is moksha (liberation)?

The traditional definition of moksha says:
"Leave everything behind, renounce all desires, and merge into the divine."

But look carefully—renunciation is only meant for you.
Those who preach this never renounce power, wealth, or status.

Thus, real moksha is not what has been told to you.
Real moksha is financial independence.

If you have money—

You can fulfil your own needs.

You don’t need to depend on fake gurus or temples.

You can make your own choices, without fear.

Next Chapter: "The Marketing of Liberation" – How Every System Wants to Keep You Trapped?

Chapter 5: The Marketing of Liberation

"The Shopkeepers of Freedom"

Every human desire freedom—freedom from their boss, from society, from suffering, from fear, and even from the cycle of birth and death.
Religion says, "Attain salvation!"
Marketing says, "Get your freedom!"
Politics says, "Independence is your right!"

But the truth is, these are all sales tactics.

If you look closely, the most successfully sold products in the world are those that give people the illusion of freedom—whether it’s religion, politics, or capitalism.

1. The Business of Religious Liberation

Religion says that this world is a prison, and you are trapped. But don’t worry, they have the solution!

Hinduism: "You are suffering due to your past life’s karma. Worship in this life, and your next life will be better!"

Christianity: "You are a sinner! Come to the church, pray, and your sins will be forgiven!"

Islam: "This world is temporary; real life is in heaven. Follow the right path, and Allah will reward you!"

Buddhism: "Your suffering is caused by desires. Let go of desires, and you will be liberated!"

Everywhere, the script is the same—"You are trapped, we will free you, just follow us!"

But think—are those claiming to liberate you truly free themselves?

Babas, priests, mullahs, gurus—how free are they?

Look closely, and you'll see that liberation has become a product. You think religion will free you from bondage, but in reality, it only traps your mind even further.

2. The Politics of Selling Freedom

"The country became independent, but when will the people?"

Every politician promises to give you freedom—
Freedom from poverty, from unemployment, from corruption.
Every election, the same promise is made—"This time, the right government will bring true independence!"

But what happens?

Earlier, you were ruled by the British; now, you are ruled by politicians.

Earlier, kings collected taxes; now, governments do.

Earlier, religion sold fear; now, the media does.

You think you live in a democracy, but in reality, it's not a people's democracy—it's a corporate dictatorship.
You are told you are a free citizen, but your every move is tracked—Aadhaar card, CCTV cameras, phone data, social media.

So, politics sells you the illusion of liberation, repackaged every five years.

3. The Capitalist Salesmanship of Freedom

Now, let's talk about the market.

The biggest weapon in marketing is selling the dream of freedom.

Every product tells you: "Buy this, and feel free!"

iPhone: "If you have this, you are unique!"
Luxury clothing: "Wear this, and be part of the elite!"
Car & bike ads: "Experience the freedom of speed!"
Jobs & investments: "Earn money, and gain financial freedom!"

But what actually happens?

You buy a new phone, but in a few months, it feels outdated.

You get a luxury car, but end up burdened with EMIs.

In the pursuit of financial freedom, you trap yourself in bigger financial slavery.

Capitalism sells you the illusion of freedom; while keeping you chained to endless consumption.

4. What Is True Liberation?

Now, the real question—
If religion, politics, and capitalism are all selling fake liberation, then what is real freedom?

True liberation is when you are not a slave to any system.
When your intellect is sharp enough that no one can manipulate you.
When you don’t depend on any guru, government, or brand to feel "free."

Freedom is not outside—it is in the way you think.

If you question everything, doubt every claim, and form your own understanding—you are already free.

In the Next Chapter:
"The Economics of Faith" – How belief has been turned into a product.

Chapter 6: The Economics of Faith

"The Art of Selling Trust"

Have you ever wondered how trust has become a business model?
Religion, the market, politics—everything stands on one foundation: your belief.
The day you start questioning, their business collapses!

The game is simple—

Religion says: "Have faith in God, or disaster will follow!"

The market says: "Trust the brand, or you'll end up with a bad product!"

Politics says: "Believe in the leader, or the nation will fall apart!"

Faith is the force that enslaves the masses and the same force that makes others kings.

1. How Does the Market of Trust Work?

You might have noticed that some brands enjoy blind trust.
Whether it's Apple, Mercedes, or a famous guru, their real marketing power lies in "the art of selling trust."

The Religious Trust Fund

Every religion is built on the same formula:

Fear + Hope = Faith

Fear: "If you don't worship God, you'll go to hell!"

Hope: "If you pray, you'll attain heaven!"

This fear and hope cycle has been institutionalized, giving rise to temples, mosques, churches, and gurudwaras.
Then, "Trusts" were created to collect billions in donations.

You think this is devotion?
In reality, it's an economic model:

The devotee donates → The institution grows richer → More advertising → More devotees arrive → More donations flow.

And then? They register it as a religious trust, making it tax-free!

Look closely—the biggest religious sites didn’t grow because of faith, but because of money.

Brands as the New Religion

Now, step outside religion and look at the market.
Brands operate just like religions.

A new iPhone launches, and people stand in line for hours—because they trust it’s "the best."

A doctor prescribes a specific brand of medicine, and you take it without question—because you trust their authority.

A celebrity endorses a product, and people rush to buy it—because they trust the star.

The same formula applies here—

Fear + Hope = Brand Loyalty

Fear: "If you buy a cheap product, it will be bad!"

Hope: "If you buy branded, your life will improve!"

2. The Price of Trust in the Stock Market & Politics

Stock Market—The Business of Trust

Ever noticed how some companies' stocks always rise?
Not because of their products, but because people believe in them.

Tesla, Apple, Google—they aren't just tech giants; they thrive on brand trust.

One rumour like "XYZ company is failing", and people panic-sell their stocks.
Soon, the company actually starts sinking—because trust collapsed!

Politics—A Trust-Based Business Model

A politician is just like a brand.
Every election, they market themselves as "the best product" and say:

"If you vote for me, your future will be secure!"

"If you don't, the country will be in danger!"

Again, the same old formula:

Fear + Hope = Voter Trust

3. Who Pays the Price for Faith?

Now, who actually pays the price for this trust?

When you trust a guru, you donate money, making him rich.

When you trust a brand, you buy expensive products, making the company richer.

When you trust a politician, you vote, making their power stronger.

And what do you get in return?
Just another dream, another promise, another illusion!

4. Can We Escape the Trust Trap?

Does this mean you should never trust anyone?
No. Trust is necessary, but questioning is even more important.

Before trusting a religion, ask— "Can I verify this for myself?"

Before trusting a brand, ask— "Is this really better, or just good marketing?"

Before trusting a politician, ask— "Will they truly work for me, or just exploit my belief?"

The moment you develop the habit of questioning; no one can deceive you.

Your faith will be your own, not something imposed on you.

Next Chapter: "Spirituality vs. Superstition"

Where does the journey of self-discovery end, and where does deception begin?

Chapter 7: Spirituality vs. Superstition

"Where does the search end, and where does deception begin?"

There are two kinds of people around you—

Seekers: Those who want to know, who ask questions.

Believers: Those who blindly trust without questioning.

The difference between spirituality and superstition lies here—

Spirituality: It is the process of questioning.

Superstition: It is accepting answers without questioning.

But society plays this game in reverse. You are trained not to explore but to believe.
From childhood, seeds of blind faith are planted in your mind—

"God exists, and He is watching everything!"

"This scripture has all the answers, just read it!"

"This guru is omniscient; his words are the ultimate truth!"

1. What is True Spirituality?

If you truly want to know something, first understand one thing—
Spirituality is not just about God; it is about deeply exploring life itself.

Gautama Buddha once said—
"Doubt is the first step towards true knowledge."

Meaning, unless you question something, you cannot dive deep into it.

Ironically, those whom you consider "spiritual" are often the most superstitious ones!

Someone who says, "You can find God, just close your eyes!"— is not spiritual but a fraud.

Someone who says, "This book contains all the answers!"— is not a seeker but a preacher.

Someone who says, "Just have faith, knowledge is unnecessary!"— is using you.

2. How Does Superstition Spread?

Step 1: Make a False Claim.

"If you chant this mantra daily, all your problems will disappear!"

"If you touch this guru’s feet, your future will be bright!"

"If you wear this stone, your luck will change!"

Step 2: Create Fear.

"If you don’t pray, disaster will strike!"

"If you disobey the guru, you will fail in life!"

"If you reject this, bad times will come!"

Step 3: Turn It into Tradition.

Slowly, this lie becomes "truth" in society.
Generations keep believing it without questioning.

This is the true power of superstition—what was once false is gradually turned into an unquestionable "fact"!

3. The Business of Worship and Rituals

Look at any religion—it is full of rituals, prayers, and ceremonies. Everything has been turned into a market—

For some, taking a dip in the Ganges is salvation.

For others, going to a mosque or church is devotion.

For some, listening to a guru’s sermons is spirituality.

But in reality, this has become a massive "Spiritual Market."
You think you are following religion, but in reality, you are just a customer!

Gautama Buddha once said—
"If someone claims they can set you free, understand that they are actually enslaving you!"

4. The Beginning of True Seeking

If you truly want to be spiritual, start questioning—

"If God is everywhere, why do I need to visit a temple?"

"If prayers fix everything, why do hospitals exist?"

"If someone is truly enlightened, why are they running a business?"

As long as your mind keeps questioning, no one can fool you.
And that is true spirituality—seeking, questioning, and reasoning.

In the next chapter: "Moksha, Maya, and Marketing"—Does anyone really attain liberation, or is it just another business?

Chapter 8: Moksha, Maya, and Marketing

"Does anyone truly attain liberation, or is it just another business?"

Every religion, every guru, every sacred text sells the same dream—Moksha (liberation), Nirvana, salvation.
But is this truly something real, or just a marketing strategy?

Think about it—

If someone wants to sell heaven, they must first instill the fear of hell.

If someone wants to sell liberation, they must first convince you that you are trapped.

If someone wants to become a guru, they must first make you believe that you are ignorant.

First, they make you feel like a prisoner, and then they sell you the key.
That is the real trick of religious marketing.

1. Moksha: A Problem or a Solution?

First, what exactly is moksha?

Some say it is freedom from rebirth.

Some say it is the merging of the soul with the divine.

Some say it is a state of ultimate peace.

But have you ever thought—to be 'liberated,' you first need to be 'trapped'?

This means someone must first convince you that—

“You are lost in illusion (Maya)!”

“You are trapped in karmic bonds!”

“You need to escape the cycle of birth and death!”

And once you believe you are trapped, you will start searching for a way out.
That’s when the business of moksha begins.

2. The Marketing of Moksha in Religion

Every religion has its own version of moksha, packaged as a unique product—

Hinduism: Liberation from rebirth, merging with Brahman.

Buddhism: Nirvana, the cessation of desires.

Jainism: Freedom from karmic bondage.

Islam/Christianity: Eternal joy in heaven.

Essentially, moksha is the "premium product" of every religion.
And to attain it, you must—

Perform rituals

Follow a guru

Chant scriptures

Give donations

It’s just like a skincare brand—
First, they scare you with the problem, and then they sell you the solution!

3. Does Anyone Actually Get Liberated?

If moksha was so simple, then how many people have actually attained it?
Have you ever met someone who confidently said—
"Brother, I am now completely free!"

You won't. Because it's an endless business.
People spend their entire lives chasing it, only to remain in the same loop.

Buddha once said:
"The day you stop searching, you are free."

This means?
The real moksha is to stop running after moksha.

4. What is True Liberation?

When you stop following gurus blindly.

When you stop accepting books and scriptures as absolute truth.

When you start questioning with your own intelligence.

That is true freedom—your own intellect, your own reasoning.

Kabir once said—
"Kasturi kundal base, mrug dhundhe ban maahi."
(The musk deer searches for fragrance in the forest, not realizing it is within itself.)

So next time someone tries to sell you moksha, ask them—
"Brother, are you liberated yourself?"

Coming up next:

"Religion, Money, and Deception – Who is using whom?"

Chapter 9: Religion, Money, and Deception – Who is Using Whom?

"Is religion for money, or is money for religion?"

Look around—temples, mosques, churches, gurudwaras.
What do they claim?
"We are the houses of God; we show the path to salvation and liberation!"

But the real question is—

Are they truly God's houses, or just money-making machines?
Is religion purely about faith, or is it a business model?
Does God really need donations and offerings, or is someone else playing the game?

If you observe closely, wherever there is religion, there is wealth.
And wherever there is wealth, there is deception.

1. The Real Business Model of Religion

If something cannot function without money, understand that it is a marketplace.
Religion follows the same three levels as any business:

Step 1: Sell Fear (Fear Marketing)

First, you will be frightened—

"If you don't perform this ritual, you'll go to hell!"
"If you don't donate, your next life will be miserable!"
"If you don't worship, God will be angry!"

This is no different from how a company convinces you—
"Your skin is aging!"
"Buy our anti-aging cream!"

Step 2: Sell the Solution (Solution Selling)

Once you are scared, a "solution" is offered—

"Donate a gold canopy in the temple, and your sins will be forgiven!"
"Give money to the mosque or church, and God will be pleased!"
"Offer gifts to the guru, and you'll find salvation!"

First, they create a problem, then sell you the cure—this is the core marketing strategy of religion.

Step 3: Subscription Model (Repeat Customers)

Now, if salvation were achieved in one go, how would the business run?
That's why religion follows a subscription model—

- Pilgrimage every year
- Donations every month
- Daily rituals and prayers

To ensure you remain a repeat customer and the system keeps running.

2. Is Money for God, or is God for Money?

Does God really need offerings, donations, and gold?
If God truly cared about suffering, would He allow temples to hoard gold while millions starve?

On one side, people die of hunger; on the other, temples have billions in treasure.
On one side, gurus live in luxurious mansions; on the other, devotees give away their hard-earned money.

So, the real question is—

Is God on the side of the poor or the treasure hoarders?
Does God truly need wealth, or is this someone else's game?
And why spiritual leaders are so rich?

3. Who is Using Whom?

Now, understand the real game—

Religion uses people, and people get deceived in the name of God.
Money strengthens religion, and religion becomes a tool for making money.
Deception works both ways—some exploit faith for business, while believers are manipulated in the name of faith.

4. What is True Devotion?

Kabir said—
"Mala pherat jug gaya, phira na man ka pher,
Kar ka man ka daarike, man ka manka pher."

(You kept turning the rosary beads, but your mind never changed.
Leave the beads aside, and turn the beads of your mind.)

True devotion is not in idols, temples, or scriptures.
It is in your understanding, your intellect, your wisdom.

If you truly want to worship something, worship reason and knowledge.
Free yourself from this game of religion, money, and deception.

Chapter 10: The Farewell to God – When Intelligence Said Goodbye to Religion

"Does God need to be bid farewell, or did He never exist in the first place?"

When did humans create God?
Perhaps when they realized their limitations.

When lightning struck, they were afraid—
"Someone must be controlling this!"

When floods came, when famine struck, when diseases spread—
"Someone must be angry!"

Thus, God was born—
A belief born from fear, and from belief, came God.

But as intelligence grew, as science progressed, as reasoning developed—
God faded away.

1. Can God Truly Be Bid Farewell?

Something can only be bid farewell if it arrived in the first place. But if God never existed, does He even need a farewell?

The question is not—"Should we say goodbye to God?"
The real question is—"Do we even need God anymore?"

When lightning strikes, we no longer think Indra, the rain god, is angry.
When a pandemic arises, we look to doctors and scientists, not temples and mosques.
When crisis comes, we seek solutions in science, not divine intervention.

So, what role does God even play now?
Why is He still embedded in our system?

2. What Would a World Without God Look Like?

Many argue that without God, morality would collapse.
But think—

Have you not seen believers steal, lie, and commit violence?
Have you not seen atheists be truthful, honest, and compassionate?
Has religion not caused more bloodshed than any other ideology?

If morality is only based on the fear of God, then it is not morality—it is a cage of fear.
True morality comes from reason, not fear.

3. The Farewell to God – A Personal Journey

God is not something external.
He exists in your mind, and that’s where He must be let go.

Kabir said—
"Moko kahan dhoonde re bande, main to tere paas mein!"

(Why search for me outside, my friend? I am right within you.)

You will be free from God when you start asking questions—

"Do I believe in God because of reason, or just because I was taught to?"
"Does my God truly need something from me, or is this just a cultural belief?"
"If a child grows up without religious teachings, would they invent God on their own?"

Ask these questions, and you will realize—
God was never a necessity, only a mental habit that can be abandoned.

4. When Intelligence Said Goodbye to God

Sometimes, things appear to be divine simply because science has not yet explained them.

Yesterday, solar eclipses were considered bad omens.
Today, we understand them scientifically.

Yesterday, rain was seen as divine mercy.
Today, we understand cloud formation.

Yesterday, pandemics were punishments for sins.
Today, we understand viruses and vaccines.

As science advances, God retreats.
One day, He will disappear completely—
Without noise, without protest.

All it takes is courage to trust your own intelligence.
The farewell to God is not an external event but an internal realization.

The day your mind fully awakens,
You won’t need to say, "Goodbye, God!"

Because by then, He will have already left.

What Next?

In this journey, we explored the three pillars—God, Market, and Intelligence.
We saw how God is merely an idea,
How the market controls our every decision,
And how intelligence, if truly used, can free us from both.

But now the question is—what next?

Will reading this book change anything?
Will the concept of God collapse?
Will the market lose its grip?
Will intelligence awaken in its purest form?

Probably not.

Because books give ideas, but not transformation.
Transformation happens when ideas are lived.

So, here's the final question for you—

If God is just a human-created concept, do you still need Him?

If the market is only a game of control, will you remain its pawn?

If intelligence is truly your greatest power, will you free it from fear and illusion?

Or will everything continue as it always has?

You are still a part of this game.

Now, it's up to you—will you be a player or a pawn?

"Never stop thinking, never stop questioning, and most importantly—never let your intelligence sleep!"

Let's Reframe Your Worldview

We often see the world through the lens of tradition, belief, and inherited narratives.

But what happens when we step back and look at the raw, global data?

What a beautifully **balanced** world we live in! If you take a hard look at the raw data, you'd think the planet is **divinely divided** into two neat halves—almost like some cosmic social experiment.

On one side, you have the **elite club** of nations that are **rich, happy, rational, less religious, high IQ,** and somehow enjoy **low crime rates**.

These are the countries that run on logic, innovation, and, well… **not waiting for divine intervention** to fix their problems. They prioritize education over superstition, policies over prayers, and hard work over hoping for a miracle.

And guess what? It actually works! Their citizens enjoy stable economies, longer lifespans, and the kind of peace and security that others can only dream of.

And then there's the other **mystical club**. The one that is deeply devoted—to **poverty, chaos, and divine hope**. These countries tend to be **poor, depressed, less rational, extremely religious, low in IQ,** and plagued with **high crime rates.**

Faith is abundant, but functional infrastructure? Not so much.

Instead of progress, they have prayers. Instead of innovation, they have rituals. Instead of focusing on education and development, they pour their energy into worshipping and waiting—waiting for some supernatural force to pull them out of

their misery. And while they wait, crime flourishes, economies crumble, and people continue suffering in the name of faith.

But here’s where it gets really funny

Seems like God has a soft spot for those who don’t even believe in Him!

The less they pray, the richer they get; the more they rely on science, the happier they become. The ones who focus on logic and reason seem to be doing just fine, while those who dedicate their lives to pleasing God are stuck in an endless cycle of suffering.

Divine justice? Or just a cosmic-level practical joke?

And it makes you wonder—maybe God only helps those who help themselves, or maybe He’s just sitting back, watching the show, and rewarding the people who refuse to depend on Him.

Maybe, just maybe, the true path to prosperity isn’t through faith, but through reason, effort, and an understanding of reality.

Or who knows?

Maybe He secretly outsourced His blessings to science and hard work, and just forgot to update the religious ones about it.

After checking out the raw data look at the Gods favourite millionaire club in last few pages. The priests, spiritual gurus, wealthy temples and religious trusts.

God has blessed His middlemen with infinite wealth but somehow forgot about the customers who fund the whole operation?

Top 10 Countries in the World Happiness Index 2024

1. Finland
2. Denmark
3. Iceland
4. Sweden
5. Netherlands
6. Norway
7. Luxembourg
8. Switzerland
9. Australia
10. New Zealand

Sources:

The Indian Express

Business Standard

These countries consistently rank high due to strong social systems, economic stability, and a high quality of life. A reminder that happiness isn't just about wealth but also about well-being and a supportive environment!

Top 10 rational countries The Great Rationality vs. Religiosity Debate: Who's Winning?

For centuries, humans have flip-flopped between science and superstition, logic and blind faith. And while religion still holds sway in many places, the numbers don't lie—**some of the most successful, stable, and innovative countries have a high dose of rationality and a low dose of divine intervention**. Coincidence? Maybe. But let's dive into the data before making any "miraculous" conclusions.

Rational Thinking: A Cheat Code for Progress?

Turns out, countries that rely on logic, reason, and evidence-based decision-making tend to have a few things in common:

✓ Stronger Economies – Innovation and critical thinking push them forward. (No, praying for a booming stock market doesn't work.)

✓ Better Social Systems – Inclusive policies and equal rights actually make societies function better. Who knew?

✓ Less Corruption & More Transparency – When laws are based on logic rather than holy books, things tend to be fairer.

Meanwhile, countries that hold on tight to religious dogma often experience:

❌ Messy Politics – Laws that mix religion and governance rarely work well.

❌ Education Gaps – Prioritizing faith over facts means people don't learn how to question things.

❌ Social Division – When people fight over which invisible force is the best, things get... chaotic.

Countries Leading the "Thinking for Themselves" Movement

According to global surveys, these are some of the **Most rational (and often most successful) countries**:

1. Sweden
2. Denmark
3. Norway
4. Finland
5. Japan – High-tech, low belief. Coincidence? Hmm
6. China
7. South Korea , But still addicted to K-dramas
8. Germany
9. Netherlands – The land of legalized everything.
10. New Zealand

Sources:

Wisevoter – Most rational Countries
Times of India – Atheist Populations
World Population Review – Most Atheist Countries

Top 10 Countries with the Highest Atheist Populations

1. China: Approximately 91% of the population identifies as atheist or non-religious.

2. Japan: Around 86% of citizens are atheists or non-religious.

3. Sweden: Approximately 78% of the population identifies as atheist or non-religious.

4. Czech Republic: About 75% of the population identifies as atheist or non-religious.

5. United Kingdom: Approximately 72% of citizens are atheists or non-religious.

6. Belgium: Around 72% of the population identifies as atheist or non-religious.

7. Estonia: Approximately 72% of citizens are atheists or non-religious.

8. Australia: About 70% of the population identifies as atheist or non-religious.

9. Norway: Approximately 70% of citizens are atheists or non-religious.

10. Denmark: Around 68% of the population identifies as atheist or non-religious.

Sources:
World Population Review
Times of India

Top 10 Most Religious Countries in the World

1. Indonesia: A significant majority of Indonesians identify as religious, with Islam being the predominant faith.

2. Malawi: High levels of religious commitment are observed, primarily within Christian communities.

3. Yemen: The population is predominantly Muslim, with deep-rooted religious practices.

4. Sri Lanka: Buddhism is the major religion, with a significant portion of the population actively practicing their faith.

5. Mauritania: Islam is the state religion, and nearly the entire population adheres to it devoutly.

6. Djibouti: The country has a predominantly Muslim population with high religious observance.

7. Ethiopia: A diverse religious landscape with Christianity and Islam being the major faiths, both practiced devoutly.

8. Afghanistan: Islam is the central aspect of daily life, with the vast majority of citizens practicing it.

9. Uganda: Christianity is the dominant religion, with a high percentage of the population actively participating in religious activities.

10. Nigeria: The nation is almost equally divided between Islam and Christianity, with both groups exhibiting strong religious commitments.

Sources:
Pew Research Centre
CEOWORLD Magazine

These countries exhibit high levels of religious commitment, with faith playing a central role in the daily lives of their citizens.

Top 10 Poorest Countries in the World (2024)

1. South Sudan: GDP-PPP per capita of $455.16.

2. Burundi: GDP-PPP per capita of $915.88.

3. Central African Republic: GDP-PPP per capita of $1,123.78.

4. Democratic Republic of the Congo: GDP-PPP per capita of $1,552.78.

5. Mozambique: GDP-PPP per capita of $1,684.39.

6. Niger: GDP-PPP per capita of $1,697.22.

7. Malawi: GDP-PPP per capita of $1,727.28.

8. Liberia: GDP-PPP per capita of $1,828.94.

9. Madagascar: GDP-PPP per capita of $1,889.68.

10. Yemen: GDP-PPP per capita of $2,073.23.

Sources:

Global Finance Magazine
The Indian Express

These countries face significant challenges, including political instability, conflict, and limited access to education and healthcare, which contribute to their low GDP per capita. Addressing these issues requires comprehensive international support and sustainable development strategies.

Top 10 Countries with the Lowest Average IQ

1. Nepal: Average IQ of 42.99.

2. Liberia: Average IQ of 45.07.

3. Sierra Leone: Average IQ of 45.07.

4. Guatemala: Average IQ of 47.72.

5. Cape Verde: Average IQ of 52.5.

6. The Gambia: Average IQ of 52.68.

7. Nicaragua: Average IQ of 52.69.

8. Guinea: Average IQ of 53.48.

9. Ivory Coast: Average IQ of 58.16.

10. Ghana: Average IQ of 58.16.

Sources:
Times of India
Businessday NG

It's important to approach these figures with caution. Recent evaluations have criticized the methodologies behind such IQ studies, particularly those by Richard Lynn, for flawed data collection and potential biases.

Intelligence is a complex trait influenced by a myriad of factors, including education, environment, socioeconomic status, and access to resources.

Top 10 Countries with the Highest Average IQ

Based on various studies and data sources, here is a list of the top 10 countries with the highest average IQ scores:

1. Japan: 106.48

2. Taiwan: 106.47

3. Singapore: 105.89

4. Hong Kong: 105.37

5. China: 104.1

6. South Korea: 102.35

7. Belarus: 101.6

8. Finland: 101.2

9. Liechtenstein: 101.07

10. Germany: 100.74

However, relying solely on IQ as a measure of a nation's intellectual capacity can be misleading, as it doesn't consider creativity, emotional intelligence, practical skills, and other forms of intelligence.

Top 10 Richest Temples in India

1. **Padmanabhaswamy Temple, Kerala**: Estimated wealth over ₹1 lakh crore. Located in Thiruvananthapuram, this temple dedicated to Lord Vishnu gained global attention after hidden vaults revealed a treasure trove of gold, jewels, and precious artifacts.

2. **Tirumala Tirupati Venkateswara Temple**, **Andhra Pradesh**: Estimated wealth around ₹50,000 crore. Situated atop the Tirumala hills, this temple dedicated to Lord Venkateswara receives millions of devotees annually, contributing to its immense wealth through donations of cash and gold.

3. **Shirdi Sai Baba Temple**, **Maharashtra**: Estimated wealth approximately ₹2,600 crore. Located in Shirdi, this temple dedicated to Sai Baba attracts devotees worldwide, who contribute generously in the form of cash, gold, and silver.

4. **Vaishno Devi Temple**, **Jammu & Kashmir**: Estimated wealth around ₹2,000 crore. Nestled in the Trikuta Mountains, this temple dedicated to Goddess Vaishno Devi is a significant pilgrimage site, with wealth attributed to massive footfall and offerings from devotees globally.

5. **Siddhivinayak Temple**, **Maharashtra**: Estimated wealth approximately ₹1,500 crore. Situated in Mumbai, this temple dedicated to Lord Ganesha is frequented by numerous devotees, including celebrities, contributing to its substantial daily donations.

6. **Golden Temple (Harmandir Sahib)**, **Punjab**: Estimated wealth around ₹1,200 crore. Located in Amritsar, this holiest shrine for Sikhs is renowned for its golden dome and serves free meals to over 100,000 people daily.

7. **Somnath Temple, Gujarat**: Estimated wealth approximately ₹1,100 crore. Situated on the western coast, this temple dedicated to Lord Shiva is one of the 12 Jyotirlingas and has a

history of being rebuilt multiple times, standing as a symbol of resilience.

8. **Jagannath Temple, Odisha**: Estimated wealth around ₹1,000 crore. Located in Puri, this temple is famous for its annual Rath Yatra and receives substantial donations in gold, silver, and cash.

9. **Meenakshi Temple, Tamil Nadu**: Estimated wealth approximately ₹800 crore. Situated in Madurai, this architectural masterpiece is dedicated to Goddess Meenakshi and Lord Sundareshwarar, serving as a major cultural and spiritual hub.

10. **Kashi Vishwanath Temple, Uttar Pradesh**: Estimated wealth around ₹600 crore. Located in Varanasi, this sacred temple dedicated to Lord Shiva is believed to grant liberation (Moksha) and has recently undergone renovations with the Kashi Vishwanath Corridor project.

Sources:

Times of India

TravelTriangle

EaseMyTrip

These temples have amassed significant wealth through donations, offerings, and assets, reflecting the deep-rooted faith and devotion prevalent in India.

Top 10 Richest Spiritual Gurus in India

1. **Swami Nithyananda**: Founder of the Nithyananda Dhyanapeetam, Swami Nithyananda has an estimated net worth of nearly ₹100 billion.

2. **Acharya Balkrishna**: As the owner of 97% of Patanjali Ayurveda, Acharya Balkrishna's net worth exceeds ₹1.6 lakh crore.

3. **Baba Ramdev**: Co-founder of Patanjali Ayurved Ltd., Baba Ramdev's estimated net worth is over ₹1,600 crore.

4. **Sri Sri Ravi Shankar**: Founder of the Art of Living Foundation, Sri Sri Ravi Shankar's assets are estimated to be worth ₹1,000 crore.

5. **Mata Amritanandamayi (Amma)**: Leader of the Amritanandamayi Trust, Mata Amritanandamayi's assets are estimated at approximately ₹1,500 crore.

6. **Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh Insaan**: Leader of the Dera Sacha Sauda organization since 1990, Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh's estimated net worth is ₹1,455 crore.

7. **Asaram Bapu**: Managing over 350 ashrams worldwide, Asaram Bapu's net worth is estimated at ₹1,100 crore.

8. **Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev**: Founder of the Isha Foundation, Sadhguru's estimated net worth is ₹200 crore. (tuko.co.ke)

9. **Avdhoot Baba Shivanandji Maharaj**: Founder of ShivYog, Avdhoot Baba Shivanandji Maharaj's estimated net worth is ₹43 crore.

10. **Paul Dhinakaran Baba**: Leader of the "Jesus Calls" ministry and Chancellor of the Karunya Institute of Technology and Sciences (KITS), Paul Dhinakaran Baba's estimated net worth is ₹45 crore.

Sources:

India's Richest Saints, Babas and Their Net Worth - Times of India

Wealthiest spiritual leaders in India 2023 - Statista

From Sadhguru To Baba Ramdev: Richest Spiritual Gurus In India & Their Net Worth – IndiaTimes

Tuko.co.ke

These spiritual leaders have amassed significant wealth through various means, including both **material and spiritual products**, donations, business ventures, and the establishment of educational and healthcare institutions.

Their influence extends beyond spiritual teachings, impacting various sectors of society.

Top 10 Wealthiest Religious Organizations in the World

1. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS Church): Estimated net worth of $265 billion, primarily from tithing, investments, and real estate holdings.

2. Catholic Church in Germany: Estimated wealth between $26 billion and $70 billion, derived from land, real estate, and investments.

3. Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD): Manages the Tirupati temple in India, with assets including 10.25 tonnes of gold deposits, 2.5 tonnes of gold jewellery, $1.9 billion in bank deposits, and 960 properties across India.

4. Muhammadiyah: An Indonesian Islamic organization with assets estimated at 400 trillion rupiah (approximately $26 billion), primarily in land and buildings such as mosques, schools, universities, and hospitals.

5. Catholic Church in France: Holds assets valued at approximately $23 billion.

6. Catholic Church in Australia: Estimated wealth of $20.9 billion, based on assets and investments, including extensive property holdings.

7. Seventh-day Adventist Church: Reported assets of $15.6 billion as of 1998, including investments in a publishing house, broadcasting network, and food production facilities.

8. Church of England: Holds assets valued at £8.3 billion (approximately $10.1 billion), including properties and various funds.

9. Church of Sweden: Reported assets of approximately $9.9 billion as of 2012, largely in forests, buildings, and securities.

10. Trinity Church (New York): Manages an investment portfolio worth $6 billion, including significant real estate holdings in Manhattan.

Sources:

List of wealthiest religious organizations

Top 5 richest churches in the world 2024

Top 5 richest churches in the world 2025

Top 10 pilgrimage associated accidents

Rationality vs. Blind Faith: Risking Life for an Illusionary Sacred Place

Rationality is the ability to think critically, question beliefs, and make decisions based on logic and evidence. It is what has propelled humanity forward—from the discovery of fire to the creation of modern medicine. But ironically, the same species that can decode DNA and land on the moon is still willing to risk life and limb for an illusionary idea of a "sacred place."

The Tragic Reality of Pilgrimage-Associated Accidents

Every year, thousands of people embark on religious pilgrimages, believing that visiting a temple, shrine, or sacred mountain will bring them salvation, forgiveness, or divine blessings. But what many end up finding is tragedy.

Stampedes in overcrowded temples. People crushed under their own faith, desperately pushing forward, believing they will get closer to God.

Avalanches, landslides, and **extreme weather** during treks to remote shrines, taking hundreds of lives.

Drowning incidents during religious rituals in rivers and seas, where the water meant to "purify" ends up taking lives instead.

Traffic accidents due to overcrowded and poorly managed transport systems catering to pilgrims.

And when such tragedies strike, what do people say? It was God's will. But was it really? Or was it just a complete lack of rational planning, safety measures, and common sense?

What Makes a Place Sacred?

At its core, a sacred place is just a human-made concept. A temple is just bricks and stones. A river is just flowing water. A mountain is just a rock formation. What makes them "holy" is not any supernatural power but a collective belief system passed down for generations.

Would a temple still be divine if people stopped believing in it? Would a river still be "holy" if it dried up? The truth is, divinity is assigned, not discovered.

Risking Life for Myth: A Rational Perspective

Would you risk your life walking into fire because someone told you it’s holy?

Would you stop taking medicine and rely on faith if you had a disease?

Would you blindly jump into a river without checking its depth?

Then why risk your life trekking dangerous paths, standing in overcrowded places, or ignoring safety for the sake of an idea that exists only in belief, not reality?

The Harsh Truth

A truly rational mind does not need to travel to a "sacred place" to find peace or purpose. It understands that meaning is created within, not in an external structure. **If God exists, He wouldn’t want you to die in a stampede to prove your devotion**. And if He doesn’t, then you just lost your life for nothing.

Faith without reason is dangerous. Blind devotion has taken more lives than it has saved. It’s time people question their beliefs, prioritize safety, and understand that **a place is only as sacred as the value we assign to it.**

History has witnessed tragic incidents at some of these sacred sites. Here's an overview of notable pilgrimages and associated accidents:

1. Hajj Pilgrimage, Mecca, Saudi Arabia

Significance: An obligatory journey for Muslims, the Hajj draws millions annually to Mecca.

Incidents:

1990 Stampede: A catastrophic stampede in a pedestrian tunnel led to 1,426 deaths.

2015 Mina Stampede: Over 2,400 pilgrims lost their lives in a stampede, marking it as the deadliest Hajj incident.

2024 Heat-Related Deaths: Extreme temperatures resulted in over 1,300 fatalities among pilgrims.

2. Kumbh Mela, India

Significance: Recognized as one of the world's largest religious gatherings, Hindus congregate to bathe in sacred rivers, seeking spiritual purification.

Incidents:

January 2025 Stampede: A tragic stampede led to at least 30 deaths and numerous injuries.

July 2024 Stampede: Over 100 devotees perished during a religious assembly in Uttar Pradesh.

3. Mount Meron Pilgrimage, Israel

Significance: The annual gathering at Mount Meron commemorates Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai, attracting vast numbers of participants.

Incident:

April 2021 Stampede: A sudden crowd surge resulted in at least 44 deaths and numerous injuries.

4. Naina Devi Temple, India

Significance: A revered Hindu temple in Himachal Pradesh, drawing numerous pilgrims.

Incident:

August 2008 Stampede: Rumours of a landslide caused panic, leading to 145 fatalities.

5. Jodhpur Temple, India

Significance: A prominent temple attracting devotees, especially during festivals.

Incident:

September 2008 Stampede: A stampede during a festival resulted in 168 deaths.

6. Navaratri Festival, Madhya Pradesh, India

Significance: A significant Hindu festival celebrated with fervor across the country.

Incident:

2013 Stampede: A bridge collapse during the festival led to 115 deaths.

7. Vatican City, Italy

Significance: The epicentre of the Roman Catholic Church, attracting millions of pilgrims annually.

Incident:

2000 Jubilee Year: Overcrowding during the Jubilee celebrations led to several injuries, though fatalities were minimal.

8. Fátima, Portugal

Significance: A renowned Catholic pilgrimage site where apparitions of the Virgin Mary were reported.

Incident:

May 2017: During the centenary celebrations, overcrowding led to minor injuries among pilgrims.

9. Bodh Gaya, India

Significance: A pivotal Buddhist pilgrimage site where Lord Buddha attained enlightenment.

Incident:

July 2013 Bomb Blasts: A series of low-intensity blasts injured several pilgrims, though fatalities were avoided.

10. Santiago de Compostela, Spain

Significance: The culmination of the Camino de Santiago, a significant Christian pilgrimage route.

Incident:

July 2013 Train Derailment: While not directly related to the pilgrimage, a train derailment near Santiago resulted in numerous deaths, affecting many pilgrims.

These incidents underscore the importance of stringent safety measures and crowd management during large religious gatherings to prevent such tragedies in the future.

Final Thoughts (or Prayers, If You Insist)

The data suggests a strong link between rationality and progress.

The more a country embraces rationality, the better it tends to perform.

Of course, if faith brings your personal comfort, great—just don't expect it to replace science, innovation, and good governance.

Because at the end of the day, thinking works
better than hoping.

-Anshuman Telang